

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Governor Davis Proclaims May is State Parks Month

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gray Davis has proclaimed May is State Parks Month. In the proclamation, Governor Davis cites the beauty and diversity of California's state parks and their contribution to the state's economic prosperity and quality of life.

The proclamation notes, "California State Parks provide extraordinary recreational opportunities to find health, education and inspiration in natural environments. [The parks] play a vital role in preserving the state's cultural and biological diversity for future generations."

Acting State Parks Director Ruth Coleman said, "As we approach the summer months, we are anticipating another jump in our park attendance. Since dropping fees, our attendance has gone up about 20 million and this year we may top 90 million visitors. That is a frank testament to how much the public loves and enjoys our system, which is one of the most diverse found anywhere in the world. With May being the traditional kick-off month for the summer camping and recreation season, it is fitting and proper for the Governor to proclaim May as State Parks Month."

As a reminder, it was October 1, 2000, that State Parks cut the price of its "annual passes" and made them more user friendly. In the past, those passes have cost an average of \$70.00. Those passes will now cost just \$35.00.

Today also, California State Parks is offering a new type of annual pass. Instead of the old style, bothersome, window stickers that required the recording of registration information and a cumbersome second vehicle pass process, the new annual pass will be a "hangtag" that can be hung from the rearview mirror or

displayed on the dash. The new “hangtag” may be used on any vehicle, so the owner can use it on rental cars or when visiting a park in a friend’s car.

Last year, California State Parks had more than 80 million visitors at the 267 state park facilities. This year, again, more than 90 million visitors are expected. That number of visitors, according to State Parks economic data, creates an economic impact of more than \$7 billion in visitor spending for communities surrounding parks across the state of California.

For those who can go early, the month of May is one of the prettiest in California. It is a period when many areas of the state are still a lush green from the spring rains. Many people feel it is the most beautiful time of year in California, and that is one reason why May is always selected as State Parks month. It’s also a lot cooler than July and August.

Jeep®, a California State Parks Proud Partner, is the official vehicle of State Parks Month.

State Park camping reservations can be made by calling 1-800-444-7275 or on-line at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov). Reservations can be made up to seven months in advance.

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